



Library of Michigan's Quarterly Newsletter

Spring 2007

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News from Nancy

State Librarian Nancy R. Robertson

Spring is beginning – slowly – to make its presence felt in many pockets of the state and that means it's time for me to hit the road for a series of town meetings scheduled throughout March and most of April. I am really looking forward to these opportunities to talk about ways we can collectively improve Michigan's library service.



I want to thank the 13 public and academic libraries for their hospitality in hosting us. We will cover the cost of food and drink, but the space and catering arrangements are all being handled locally, so be sure to thank the director and staff at your meeting site. It was a challenge determining just 13 locations, but we feel we've achieved good geographic coverage and variation among public and community college libraries.

See the meeting schedule at <http://www.michigan.gov/libraryofmichigan>.

The town meetings are truly idea-generating sessions. Please plan to share your thoughts about what your libraries need that you cannot provide for yourselves and, for the afternoon, what you see for the future of the Michigan eLibrary. This is brainstorming and all input is welcome. The more discussion we can generate, the better!

Additionally, please have your ears and minds open to take in the ideas of others in your session. I and the Library of Michigan staff accompanying me want to hear and gather all ideas for consideration and planning but, perhaps more importantly, these town meetings will afford each of you the opportunity to gain perspective and insight from people and places you may not have considered before.

The response has been excellent thus far and I hope many of you have been able to add a town meeting to your calendar. I look forward to seeing you soon!



MeL -The Library Made with Me in Mind!



MeL ReMix Debut!

On Feb. 20, fans of the Michigan eLibrary (MeL) were introduced to MeL ReMix, the latest and most content-rich version of the Michigan eLibrary (MeL), at <http://mel.org>. MeL's new look, enhanced content, smoother navigation and better integrated components are geared to meet users' information needs for business, school, health, recreation, all things Michigan, and much more.

"No single library has the resources available to meet all customer needs, but the Michigan eLibrary makes it possible for residents anywhere in the state to enhance their personal and professional lives with the best information," said State Librarian Nancy Robertson.

"The Michigan eLibrary caters to the information needs of just about everyone, including students, teachers, business owners, history buffs and health care professionals, no matter where in the state they reside," she said. "MeL effectively makes time and distance irrelevant in the customer's search for top-notch information."

Robertson praised the efforts of several Michigan libraries that volunteered to help spread the word about MeL ReMix to their customers and local media. "Their assistance was invaluable," she said. "Every day, more people are learning about the depth of the Michigan eLibrary's information resources."



MeL by the Numbers

As of February 2007:

- Total number of libraries participating in MeLCat: 145 (33 academic, 93 public, 17 K-12, 2 special)
- Number of items available in MeLCat: 20.1 million (7.05 million bibliographic records)
- Weekly average for MeLCat requests: 6,543

In 2006:

- MeLCat requests: 208,069
- MeLCat fulfillment rate: 88.8 percent
- 8,028,600 MeL Database retrievals

First unveiled to the public with 24-hour remote access in the summer of 2002, the Michigan eLibrary now boasts a number of compelling information tools:

MeL Pathfinders: dozens of subject searches from agriculture and education to science and the environment;

MeL Databases: a collection of full-text articles from magazines, journals and newspapers, and digital e-books;

MeL Catalog (MeLCat): a place to search for and request lending materials from a growing list of participating Michigan libraries;

MeL Multisearch: a streamlined approach to researching multiple databases; and

MeL Michigana: a growing collection of digitized historical resources from throughout Michigan and the Archives of Michigan image collections.

Just last week, the Library of Michigan announced that **Michigan Educators' Resources** (the former Michigan Teacher Network) is available via MeL. Michigan Educators' Resources is a collection of preschool-through-12th-grade education-related Web resources researched and vetted by education professionals.

MER includes more than 7,000 Web sites that have been selected and evaluated by education professionals. All links provide extensive descriptions and ERIC keywords, and users will be able to search for resources by keyword, title, author or resource type. MER includes thousands of excellent resources that are ideal for classroom use, professional development and long-term strategic planning. Additionally, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) will contribute lesson plans and mapping of the Web sites to the new Michigan Grade Level Content Expectations (GLCE).

Funding for MeL is provided through the federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) via the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and administered by the Library of Michigan.

LM News

Learn More about Online Family-History Research at March 31 Seminar

"Learning More at the Library of Michigan" – a free genealogy seminar set for Saturday, March 31 from 1 to 4:30 p.m. – will be devoted entirely to Internet research and online resources. The seminar will introduce researchers to the growing variety of genealogical material available on the Internet, highlight a number of free Web sites and subscription databases, and emphasize specific genealogy resources available at the Library of Michigan.

Registration is available online, as well as by e-mail at librarian@michigan.gov or by phone at (517) 373-1300.

Seating is limited and registration is recommended. If you have any questions, please contact the Library of Michigan's Special Collection Services at (517) 373-1300.

Sessions include:

1-2 p.m.

Using the Library of Michigan Web Site

Find out more about the resources available on the Library of Michigan Web site and how you can use them at home to make the best use of your research time when visiting the library.

Online Research with U.S. Census Records

This program will show researchers how to make full use of the digitized census records and indexes on both Ancestry Library Edition and HeritageQuest.

2:15-3:15 p.m.

Online Tools for Finding Cemetery Sources

Learn how to utilize the Michigan Cemetery Sources database to locate cemeteries, identify useful print transcriptions and locate online burial lists.

Vital Records Research on the Internet

More states and counties are putting indexes to birth, marriage and death records online. Find out what Web sites are available and pick up tips to improve your searches.

3:30-4:30 p.m.

Michigan Genealogy Research on the Internet

Examine the latest resources and strategies for Michigan family-history researchers interested in more effectively using the Internet.

Online Military Records Research

This program will explore both the wealth of military information available online and search strategies to maximize your research time.



Michigan Center for the Book Supports Libraries' Literary Programs

The Michigan Center for the Book has awarded grants to nine libraries throughout the state to help fund events that promote books and reading.

"We want to bring literary activities to a broad range of people who might not otherwise have these experiences, to help Michigan residents discover the fun and fulfillment of reading and discussing a good book," said Michigan Center for the

Book Coordinator Karren Reish. "Engaging events like the ones we're supporting get people excited about books, whether by meeting an author whose writing they enjoy or connecting with their neighbors through a collective reading experience."

"With this generous award from the Michigan Center for the Book, metro Detroit readers of Kevin Boyle's 'Arc of Justice: A Saga of Race, Civil Rights and Murder in the Jazz Age' will be able to appreciate his personal insights about writing this controversial account of a local event that came to have national significance," said Mary Killian, adult services coordinator for West Bloomfield Township Public Library. Killian said that five Detroit-area public libraries involved in the "Everyone's Reading" community-wide reading program will host these author appearances in celebration of National Library Week in April.

Grants awarded include (*indicates Michigan Center for the Book affiliates):

Author Visits

- *Baldwin Public Library in Birmingham - Writers Live! with Steven Kellogg, April 18-19
- Delton District Library - Author Evenings featuring Joseph Heywood, March 14 and 28
- *Genesee District Library - Meet the Author with Colonel Matthew Bogdanos, April 13
- Rochester Hills Public Library - Authors Live @ Your Library with Jill Gregory and Karen Tintori, May 9

Book Festivals

- *Grand Rapids Public Library - 3rd Annual Celebration of the Book, Oct. 15-21
- *Southfield Public Library - Southfield Books and Beyond, Sept. 16-17

"One Book" Events

- *Metro Net Library Consortium - Everyone's Reading Arc of Justice, Feb. 3 to April 18

Other Events

- Albion Public Library - Celebration of Black History Month through Storytelling and Song with Tiana Marquez, Feb. 21
- Roseville Public Library - How to Write, Publish and Market Books that Sell, March 31

The Michigan Center for the Book partially funds events or projects that fulfill its goal of promoting an awareness of books, reading, literacy, authors and Michigan's rich literary heritage. The events must be free and open to the public; the sponsoring organization must be a Michigan-based nonprofit organization, library or school; and the request for funds must be no more than 50 percent of the total budget or no more than \$500, whichever is less. Funding for the grants comes from dues paid by the affiliate members of the Michigan Center for the Book.

To learn more about the Michigan Center for the Book, visit <http://www.michigan.gov/mcfc>.

Michigan Reads! Unveils New Logo



Michigan Reads! – the Library of Michigan's one-state, one-children's-book program highlighting the importance of early-childhood literacy – has unveiled a new logo. The logo design was generously donated by the Southfield firm of Brogan & Partners.

Michigan Reads! is slated to take place in fall 2007. The featured title and other program details will be announced during National Library Week in April.

Stay tuned to the Michigan Reads! Web page at <http://www.michigan.gov/michiganreads> for more details and resources as they become available.

2007 Michigan Notable Books are Literary Feast from State's Best Storytellers

The recently announced 2007 Michigan Notable Books (<http://www.michigan.gov/notablebooks>) – 20 books published in 2006 that highlight Michigan people, places and events – tell a wide range of uniquely Michigan stories.

Included are historical accounts such as the hopeful story of Covert, a Michigan town that became racially integrated in the 19th century; essays and poetry inspired by Michigan and the



Photograph courtesy of Kim Kauffman Photography © 2007

Great Lakes; and mysteries and youth fiction that use as their settings some of Michigan's best-known places: apple orchards, resort communities and the Mackinac Bridge.

Each year's Michigan Notable Books list features 20 books published the previous calendar year that are about or set in Michigan or the Great Lakes region or are written by a native or resident of Michigan. Selections include nonfiction and fiction and typically have a wide appeal to the audience, covering a range of topics and issues close to the hearts of Michigan residents.

The 2007 Michigan Notable Books are:

- *Burning Rainbow Farm: How a Stoner Utopia Went Up in Smoke*, by Dean Kuipers (Bloomsbury)
- *Death's Door: The Truth Behind Michigan's Largest Mass Murder*, by Steve Lehto (Momentum Books)
- *Donutheart*, by Sue Stauffacher (Alfred A. Knopf)
- *Fresh Water: Women Writing on the Great Lakes*, edited by Alison Swan (Michigan State University Press)
- *Guilty at the Rapture*, by Keith Taylor (Hanging Loose Press)
- *The History of Michigan Law*, edited by Paul Finkelman and Martin J. Herschok (Ohio University Press)
- *House of Fields: Memories of a Rural Education*, by Anne-Marie Oomen (Wayne State University Press)

- *Keewaydinoquay: Stories from My Youth*, by Keewaydinoquay Peschel, edited by Lee Boisvert (University of Michigan Press)
- *Landscaping with Native Plants of Michigan*, by Lynn M. Steiner (Voyageur Press)
- *Mackinac Bridge: The Story of the Five-Mile Poem*, by Gloria Whelan, illustrated by Gijsbert van Frankenhuyzen (Sleeping Bear Press)
- *The Muskegon: The Majesty and Tragedy of Michigan's Rarest River*, by Jeff Alexander (Michigan State University Press)
- *Nicotine Kiss: An Amos Walker Novel*, by Loren D. Estleman (Forge)
- *Saving Daylight*, by Jim Harrison (Copper Canyon Press)
- *So Cold a Sky: Upper Michigan Weather Stories*, by Karl Bohnak (Cold Sky Publishing)
- *A Stronger Kinship: One Town's Extraordinary Story of Hope and Faith*, by Anna-Lisa Cox (Little, Brown, and Company)
- *Summer of the War*, by Gloria Whelan (HarperCollins)
- *Taking Care of Cleo: A Novel*, by Bill Broder (Hansel Books)
- *An Unquiet Grave*, by P.J. Parrish (Pinnacle Books)
- *The Widower: A Novel*, by Liesel Litzenburger (Shaye Areheart Books)
- *William G. Milliken: Michigan's Passionate Moderate*, by Dave Dempsey (University of Michigan Press)

This year's Michigan Notable Books selection committee included representatives from the Library of Michigan, Archives/Curious Book Shop in East Lansing, Capital Area District Library, Cooley Law School, the *Detroit News*, the *Grand Rapids Press*, Michigan Center for the Book, Michigan Historical Center, Michigan State University Libraries, Northland Library Cooperative, ProQuest Information and Learning and Schuler Books & Music.

The 2007 Michigan Notable Books program is sponsored by the Michigan Humanities Council, the National Endowment for the Humanities, Cooley Law School, ProQuest, LaSalle Bank, the Library of Michigan, the Library of Michigan Foundation, Michigan Center for the Book, Borders and Schuler Books & Music. Media partners for this project are WKAR and the *Lansing State Journal*.

Events at LM and Libraries Statewide to Celebrate Michigan's Notables

The Library of Michigan Foundation will host the fourth annual "Night for Notables" in honor of the 2007 Michigan Notable Book authors, on the evening of Saturday, April 14, at the Library of Michigan. Keynote speakers include former Michigan Governor William G. Milliken; former *Detroit News* political columnist George Weeks, who also served on the staff of Governor Milliken; and Dave Dempsey, author of "William G. Milliken, Michigan's Passionate Moderate" – one of the 2007 Michigan Notable Books.

Guests will have an opportunity to meet various Michigan Notable Books authors, ask questions about the authors' work and get their books signed. Admission is \$25 per person. To make reservations, please call (517) 373-4692.

The Library of Michigan is thrilled to note that the third annual Michigan Notable Books author tour will stop at even more libraries this year: 67 in all! The April and May tour schedule will be posted on the Michigan Notables Web site at <http://www.michigan.gov/notablebooks> in early March.

Rural Libraries 2.0 – Registration and Special Events

by Deb Bacon-Ziegler

Have you registered for the 2007 Rural Libraries Conference? Don't wait! There is not a registration fee, but you will want to be sure that you have a bed to sleep in, a chair to sit on, and delicious meals to eat.

To register, complete and return the form found at:
http://michigan.gov/documents/hal/lm_RLCRegistration181542_7.pdf

For accommodations at the Grand Traverse Resort, call the resort main number (800-748 0303), press 3 and then 1 for Group Reservations, and then mention "Rural Libraries Conference" to get the group rates. Room rates for the conference are \$99.00 (hotel) and \$129.00 (tower) per night.

All set? OK, on to the Special Conference Events:

Monday, May 7, 2007

Michael Stephens, who blogs at Tame the Web, and Jenny Levine, The Shifted Librarian, will open our conference with a talk on Web 2.0 applications and the exciting opportunities they present to libraries and librarians.

Maureen Burns, a local favorite, will inspire us with her humor and words of wisdom. Library work is not for the faint of heart; Maureen knows how to deliver a pep talk that will leave you ready to take on the world!

Dessert reception, state librarian welcome & remarks, networking and fun - the conference hospitality committee is hard at work planning evening events to entertain and inform us.

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Our dinner keynote features Michigan native Jo Dereske who writes the Miss Zukas mystery series about, you guessed it, a librarian! Learn more about Jo at <http://www.jodereske.com/>.

Book signing and more fun with the hospitality committee immediately follow dinner.

Wednesday, May 9, 2007

Closing luncheon featuring:

MLA president-elect and Ann Arbor District Library director Josie Parker will share her insights about Michigan's libraries and communities.

The traditional close of the conference is Roger Mendel reading the letter written to him by Marian T. Librarian from Lake Neverwuz. Marian's commentary on the conference is always insightful and funny. You will laugh. Hard.

Legal-Ease

Common Misperceptions Pertaining to the Michigan Library Privacy Act

by Lance M. Werner

Being reasonable is generally thought of as an admirable personality trait. Having reasonable library employees and library boards is a large part of maintaining strong customer service and public relations. On occasion, taking actions that seem reasonable can result in a violation of the law.

The purpose of this article is to discuss situations where reason and the Michigan Library Privacy Act (the Privacy Act), 1982 PA 455, MCL 397.601 *et seq.*, may be at odds. As most librarians know, the Privacy Act prohibits the unauthorized release of library records that contain confidential information. The library records, which have been afforded confidential status, are those that personally identify a library user, including contact information and/or records containing information about the materials that a particular library user has circulated. This article focuses on two different scenarios that lend themselves to misapplication of the Privacy Act. The first scenario pertains to illegal activities by library patrons that occur within the library; the second scenario concerns the use of library records to produce voter or mailing lists.

Unfortunately, library patrons occasionally engage in illegal activities in the library. Some of these activities are sexual or violent in nature and sometimes they are just bizarre. When these types of activities occur, I usually receive a phone call or an email from the library asking, "What can we do?"

When illegal activities – such as disrobing or fighting – occur in the library, call the police right away. It is perfectly reasonable to report a crime in the library. Merely being in a public library does not enshroud patrons in a veil of privacy. Hopefully law enforcement officers are able to respond quickly and catch the person in the act.

If the police arrive and the person has left the library, the library staff may suddenly find themselves in the position where reasonableness and the law may seem incompatible. The reasonable v. legal conundrum usually arises when the law enforcement officers ask for personal information contained in a library's record about the "patron."

It seems perfectly reasonable to furnish the requested information to law enforcement officers in the wake of such an incident, but to do so would probably result in a violation of § 3 of the Privacy Act, MCL 397.603. It is also notable that there are civil consequences under § 4 of the Privacy Act, MCL 397.604 for the wrongful disclosure of confidential information. A library employee who violates the Act may be personally liable.

The Privacy Act is clear regarding when to disclose confidential information. Permissible disclosure can only occur one of two ways. The information can be disclosed if the person identified in the record has given written permission or if the library has been ordered by a court to disclose the information. Even then, the library still has the right to appear in court to dispute the court order.

While certain types of library records have been afforded confidential status, personal knowledge has not. This means that if a library employee personally knows the name of the alleged criminal, the staff member can disclose the information to law enforcement officers.

The bottom line is this: library board members, employees and volunteers are all legally bound to follow the law, even if doing so seems to defy reason and common sense. This situation also demonstrates why libraries should have policies in place that furnish a mechanism for the disclosure of confidential information in accordance with the law, including the mandates of the Privacy Act.

On a related front, it is no secret that for a lot of libraries, millage funding is the difference between being open and closed. It is also well known that library newsletters are a solid tool for advocacy and public relations. Identifying the "target audience" in consideration of library millage campaigns and newsletters lends itself to the misapplication of the Privacy Act.

Obviously, libraries have patron databases containing identification and contact information. While it might seem reasonable to use the information stored in a library's patron database to identify the "target audience" for the creation of mailing lists and the like, to do so without permission of the patrons would violate § 3 of the Privacy Act on a grand scale.

As I mentioned previously, § 4 of the Privacy Act prescribes civil consequences for the wrongful disclosure of confidential library information. Section 4 states that the person whose information was wrongfully disclosed can bring a civil action for actual damages or \$250 (whichever is greater), in addition to attorney's fees and court costs. Attorney's fees often amount to thousands of dollars.

To illustrate what I meant by "grand scale" above, I offer the following hypothetical: A library used its patron database to generate a mailing list without permission. The patron database contained the names and contact information for 10,000 people. Each of those 10,000 people sues the library and receives the awards provided by § 4 of the Privacy Act. Hypothetically speaking, it is possible that the library would be responsible for paying a money judgment in excess of \$2.5 million dollars, without attorney's fees and court costs being added in. It is easy to see that the results would, to say the least, be catastrophic for the library.

Quite simply, do not use the library's patron database to generate mailing lists, even if it seems to make sense and be reasonable. The legal way to gather information for mailing lists is to seek permission from library patrons. This can be accomplished during the library card application process or through another method of obtaining written permission.

It is vital that libraries have policies in place addressing disclosure and use of confidential library records. For libraries, the legal way is the only way.

As always, this discussion has been furnished as an informational service of the Library of Michigan and is not intended in any way to constitute legal advice. For more information, please contact Lance M. Werner, the library law specialist at the Library of Michigan, by phone at (517) 373-1299 or via e-mail at wernerl@michigan.gov.

Happening at HAL

Check Out the HAL Blogs on Arts, Archives and Libraries

One need only spend a bit of time online today to see that Web logs – or “blogs” – are gaining ground every day as a popular vehicle for sharing thoughts, stirring up conversation and inspiring action.

According to <http://www.blogger.com>, “A blog is a personal diary; a daily pulpit; a collaborative space; a political soapbox; a breaking-news outlet; a collection of links; your own private thoughts; memos to the world.” In simplest terms, a blog is a Web site on which the blogger posts information on an ongoing basis, with the newest entries at the top of the page. Readers of the blog can then comment on posts.

Several agency- and program-specific blogs have been created in the last year by staff in the Department of History, Arts and Libraries. The Library community is already familiar with State Librarian Nancy Robertson’s blog, the Michigan eLibrary blog and the Rural Libraries Conference blog, but there are two others you may be interested in reviewing: the State Archivist’s blog and the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs blog. For the latest happenings in the world of arts, archives or libraries, give these blogs a try:

State Librarian’s Blog

<http://statelibrarianofmichigan.blogspot.com/index.html>

Michigan eLibrary Blog

<http://mel-news.blogspot.com/>

Rural Libraries Conference Blog

<http://www.rlc2007.blogspot.com/>

State Archivist’s Blog

<http://www.anecdotalarchivist.blogspot.com/>

Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs Blog

<http://michiganarts.blogspot.com/>

Read Our Blogs the RSS Way

by Sonya Schryer Norris

RSS stands for Really Simple Syndication or Rich Site Summary. Either way you say it, RSS can make your life easier by bringing content (called “feeds”) from multiple Web sites and blogs to a single place for you to read. That means that instead of checking multiple sites and blogs every few days to see what’s new, the content from all of the sites you choose will be delivered for you to read in one place.

There are a number of free and pay RSS services to choose from; let’s talk about two that you can use from any Web browser for no charge: Bloglines and Google Reader. Bloglines – accessed at <http://www.bloglines.com> – allows you to set up a free account and arrange your feeds by topic. For instance, you could have a folder for “Library News” and another for “World News” – each with multiple items in it. As you come across Web sites and blogs that have an RSS feed, often signaled by the words “RSS” or this symbol:



you can add them to your reader by clicking on the symbol in your browser’s address bar and following the Bloglines instructions.

Another service, Google Reader, is also free, and available at <http://www.google.com> (click on “Get Started” from the Google homepage). When you are logged in, your feeds show up underneath the Google search bar, allowing you to see them whenever you visit Google. Google also provides easy access to a wide variety of useful feeds and services such as the ability to search Wikipedia from the Google homepage, or <http://www.dictionary.com>, as well as see the weather forecast and news headlines all in one glance.

With these or any other RSS service you can keep track of any or all of the Library of Michigan blogs and Web pages that interest you, and news from all over Libraryland.

Michigan Historical Museum Exhibits Focus on America at Work

Youth Invited to Submit Photos for Kids-Only Exhibit

A new photographic exhibit capturing the essence of work in America – from New York to California, from the assembly line to the mine – is open through June 17 at the Michigan Historical Museum. “Working America: Photographs from the Ewing Galloway Agency, 1910-1950” – presented in

conjunction with MSU's Kresge Art Museum as part of a two-venue exhibition looking at work and workers – features more than 50 photographs depicting the culture of work in rural and urban settings during the first half of the 20th century. Drawn from Kresge's extensive collection of photographs from the Ewing Galloway photographic agency, these images were reproduced in *Life* magazine and other publications. The exhibit also will feature related artifacts from the Michigan Historical Museum collection.

“These photos provide a glimpse inside the American workplace of our parents’ and grandparents’ generations – telling the story of workers on the assembly line in diverse industries, dockside, in mines, offices, labs, shops and many other places,” said Phillip C. Kwiatkowski, director of the Michigan Historical Museum System. “We’re also asking Michigan’s young people to share their ideas about what work means to them through a special youth photo exhibit.”

Michigan youth ages 10-18 are invited to submit a photograph and essay illustrating their definition of work for an exhibit called “What is Work?” Selected entries will be displayed in the rotunda of the Michigan Library and Historical Center April 23 through May 4. Entries must be postmarked or delivered by March 15. For rules and an application form, visit <http://www.michigan.gov/museum>.

“Working America” is made possible in part by a grant to Kresge Art Museum from the Arts Council of Greater Lansing/Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs.

A couple of the images featured in the exhibit “Working America: Photographs from the Ewing Galloway Agency, 1910-1950,” at the Michigan Historical Museum in Lansing through June 17. Photos courtesy of Kresge Art Museum.

